



**American Recovery and  
Reinvestment Act of 2009**



Committed to the future of rural communities.

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **USDA Rural Development Provides \$26 million to Cass County for Broadband Service**

HARRISONVILLE, Missouri – October 18, 2010 – Agriculture Administrator for Rural Utilities Service, Jonathan Adelstein joined USDA Rural Development State Director, Anita J. Dunning to present a certificate of appreciation to Cass County officials for their utilization of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds to provide broadband service to the Cass County area.

“Broadband is the 21st century resource rural communities cannot do without. Broadband access provides vital services that drive jobs and help rural economies grow. These projects will create a number of jobs in building out the networks. Once they are built, they will provide the platform for continued job creation and economic development for years to come. The benefits of broadband will also result in increased access to educational, health care and business services--and will continue to help rural communities through job creation and economic growth in these areas, as well,” said Adelstein.”

“We are very pleased to provide the financial assistance to Cass County to provide broadband service to the community,” said Dunning. “Building a broadband infrastructure is critical to creating jobs and economic opportunity in rural America. With investments in broadband, we are fostering innovation and bringing more rural communities into the digital age.”

Cass County was selected to receive over \$26 million in ARRA funds to construct a last-mile Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) network that will extend approximately 1,286 miles to enable broadband service speeds of up to 100 Mbps. Approximately 25,900 people stand to benefit, as do roughly 710 businesses and 118 community institutions. Cass County will provide \$600,000 in private contribution. More than 138 jobs are estimated to be created or saved with additional jobs resulting from anticipated economic growth resulting from the new infrastructure.



Jonathan Adelstein, Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, and Janie Dunning Missouri USDA Rural Development Missouri State Director are pictured holding the Certificate of Appreciation presented to Cass County Officials.

Gary Mallory, Presiding Commissioner, said, “This high speed fiber network is truly an economic lifeline to many of the residents and businesses of Cass County. It will transform for the better how business is done, healthcare is provided for, and how education is achieved in rural Cass County.”

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President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law with a vision of knowing it will help America. The act was designed to jumpstart the nation’s economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

One part of this act is to fund projects that will provide broadband access to Americans nationwide. These funds will put people to work constructing new facilities, erecting towers to transmit signals and high speed broadband services installed in homes, businesses and community education, safety and public health centers. But the investments will also foster long-term economic growth.

Anyone seeking more information about broadband or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.gov/mo> or by contacting the Clinton Area Office at 1306 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Clinton, MO 64735 or by calling (660)885-5567 ext 5.

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